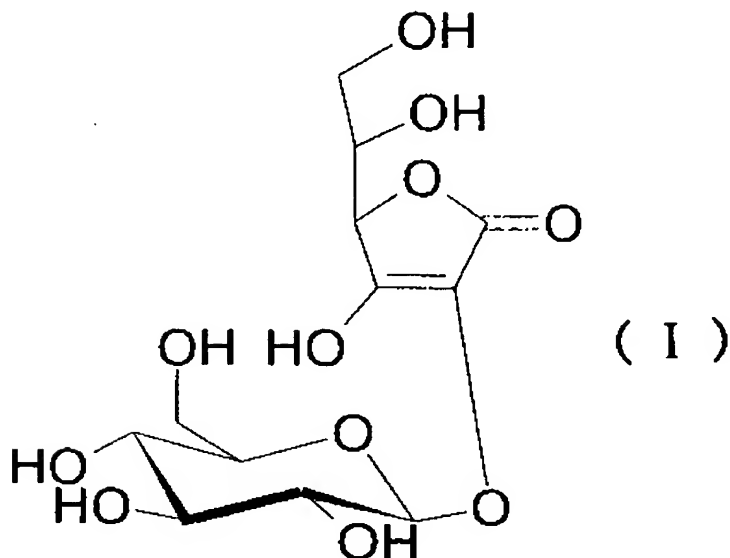


CLAIMS

1. A composition for external use, comprising
 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl)ascorbic acid represented by the
 5 formula (I):



or a salt or ester thereof which is safe to the human body, and
 a koji mold or a processed koji.

- 10 2. The composition according to claim 1, which is a cosmetic
 or a quasi-drug.

3. The composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the
 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl)ascorbic acid represented by the
 15 formula (I) as defined in claim 1 is 2-O-(β -D-
 glucopyranosyl)ascorbic acid extracted from a plant.

4. The composition according to claim 3, wherein the plant
 is a plant of Solanaceae.

5. The composition according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the plant is Chinese wolfberry, or its raw fruit or dry fruit.

5 6. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the koji mold is a mold belonging to the genus *Aspergillus*.

7. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the koji mold is a mold belonging to *Aspergillus oryzae*,
10 *Aspergillus kawachii* or *Aspergillus awamori*.

8. A set of a composition comprising 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid represented by the formula (I) as defined in claim 1, or a salt or ester thereof which is safe
15 to the human body, and a composition comprising a koji mold or a processed koji.

9. A composition comprising 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid, or a salt or ester thereof which
20 is safe to the human body, for the set as defined in claim 8.

10. An agent for potentiating skin permeability of 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid, or a salt or ester thereof which is safe to the human body, comprising a koji mold
25 or a processed koji.